











Why Do We Map Wetlands?

- NPS Policy
 - **Inventory**: NPS directed to "conduct or obtain parkwide wetland inventories" to ensure proper management and protection of wetland resources" (NPS 2000, Section 4.6.5).
 - **Net Gain**: NPS mandated to implement the no net loss of wetlands policy and to "strive to achieve a longer term goal of net gain..." through restoration of previously degraded or destroyed wetlands" (NPS 2000, Section 4.6.5.).
 - Restoration of Process and Function: NPS required to develop "actions to reestablish environments in which wetland ecological processes can function as they did prior to disturbance..." (Director's Order #77-1, Section 5.5).
 - **Setting Wetland Goals**: NPS required to develop desired future conditions for wetland resources as part of GPRA.



Why Do We Map Wetlands?

- Regulatory and Other Compliance
 - Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
 - Section 401 of the Clean Water Act
 - Coastal Act
 - Floodplain Management Policy
 - Wetlands Management Policy



• Phase I: 2000

Accuracy Assessment of Existing NWI Maps

Result?

Missed more than 53 percent of the wetlands present





• Phase II: 2001-2002

Intensive Mapping of Abbott's Lagoon







• Phase II: 2001-2002

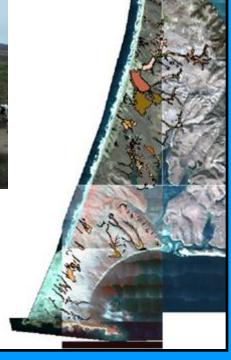
Initiated Intensive Mapping of Pastoral Zone

Result?

More than 911 acres of wetlands mapped









• Phase III: 2003-2004

Mapping of Tomales Bay Watershed

- More "rapid"
 - Not collecting exhaustive plant list
 - Increasing the minimum mapping unit size
- Include a conditional and/or functional assessment component





Why was Functional Assessment Considered Important?

Tomales Bay: Troubled Watershed

- Declared impaired under Section 303(d)
 - Sediment, nutrients, pathogens, mercury
- Problems in "Paradise"
 - Agricultural run-off
 - Leaking septic systems
 - Mercury mining
 - Leaking landfills
 - Oil spills





Why was Functional Assessment Considered Important?

Tomales Bay: Troubled Watershed

- Who is affected?
 - Thriving mariculture industry
 - Marine and estuarine wildlife
 - Residents of and visitors to West Marin











Why was Functional Assessment Considered Important?

Tomales Bay: Troubled Watershed

What is being done about it?

Source Reduction

- Riparian exclusion fencing
- Agricultural infrastructure improvements
- Septic systems repair
- Rehabilitation of mercury mine





Why was Functional Assessment Considered Important?

Tomales Bay: Troubled Watershed

- What is being done about it?
 - Ecosystem restoration
 - Native oysters
 - Wetlands









Why was Functional Assessment Considered Important?

Tomales Bay: Troubled Watershed

• Why are wetlands important to restore (and preserve)?







Hydrologic Process

Fluvial or Freshwater







Hydrologic Process

Tidal





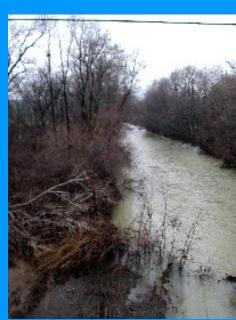




Wetland Functions

Tidal Surge/Flood Attenuation (Energy Dissipation)







Wetland Functions

Groundwater Recharge





Wetland Functions

Carbon Production and Export







Wetland Functions

Characteristic Plant Communities





Wetland Functions

Wildlife Habitat and Support





Wetland Functions

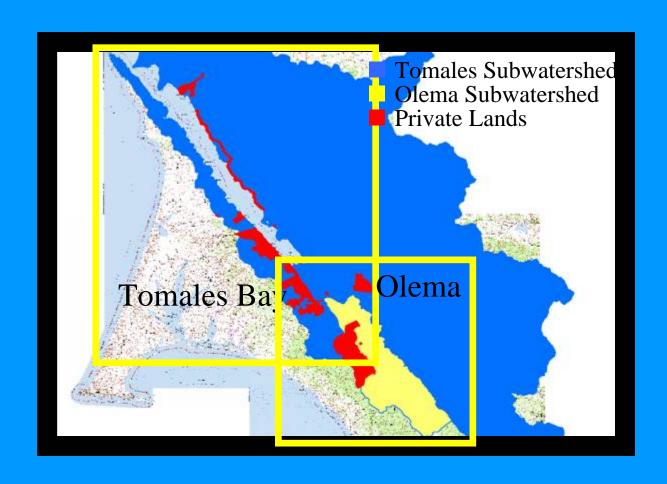
Water Quality Improvement







Tomales Bay Watershed Study Area





Methodology: Wetlands Mapping Component

Step 1: Preliminary Assessment

- Organize Study Area into subwatersheds
- Office work
 - Topographic map
 - NWI map
 - Soil survey
 - Vegetation communities map



Subwatersheds



Methodology: Wetlands Mapping Component

Step 2: Wetland Delineation

- Based on Cowardin definition:
 1) hydrology and 2) vegetation or soils
- Use criteria from Corps' 1987 Manual to determine whether area meets two parameters.

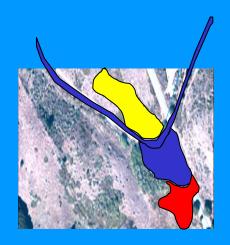




Methodology: Wetlands Mapping Component

Step 3: Wetland Classification

- Based on Cowardin classification system
- Use changes in 1) hydrologic regime modifier and/or 2) class to determine when to separate wetland polygons





Methodology: Wetlands Mapping Component

Step 3: Wetland Classification



Scrub Shrub

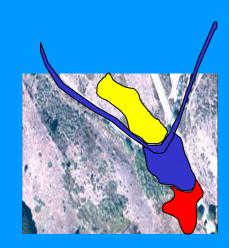




Methodology: Wetlands Mapping Component

Step 3: Wetland Classification

- Based on Cowardin classification system
- Use changes in 1) hydrologic regime modifier and/or 2) class to determine when to separate wetland polygons
- Minimum mapping unit size is 0.1 acre, although varies depending on type.





Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

Step 4: Assessment of Condition and Functionality

First Step: What Do We Assess?

- Functions?
- Condition?
- Stressors?



Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

Step 4: Assessment of Condition and Functionality

Background: Selection of Functional Assessment Methodology

- Numerous condition and functional assessment methodologies developed in last few decades:
 - Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP)
 - Wetland Evaluation Technique (WET)
 - Hydrogeomorphic Assessment Approach (HGM)
 - California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)



Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

California Rapid Assessment Method

- Standard State Wide Methodology
- Identify ambient conditions of wetlands
- Rapid, scientifically defensible, and repeatable
- Quantify anthropogenic stress, management actions, and natural disturbance
- Quantify relationships between stress, function, and condition
- Cost effective



Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

HGM + CRAM + Local Indices =

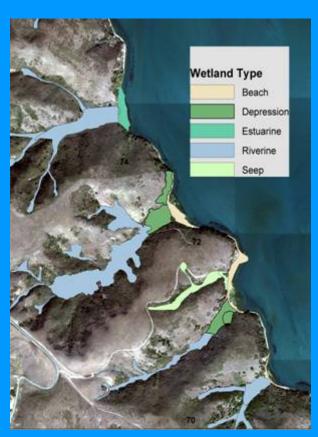
Point Reyes National Seashore
Wetland Functional Assessment



Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

Step 4a: Hydrogeomorphic Classification

- Number of wetland classification systems
 - vegetation community
 - hydrologic (Cowardin)
 - HGM
- Adopted definition of wetland types from CRAM
- Loosely based on HGM Classification scheme





Wetland Classes at Point Reyes



RIVERINE Include channels that convey unidirectional, non-tidal, surface flow, and the active flood plain.



SEEPS, SLOPES and SPRINGSForm due to seasonal or perennial groundwater emergence into the root zone or across the wetland surface.



Wetlands Classes at Point Reyes





ESTUARINE

Subject to at least occasional tidal action. Waters are mixture of marine and non-saline.

DEPRESSIONALExist in topographic lows or flats.



Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

Steps 4b & 4c: Condition and Functional Assessment

- Stressor Indices
- Grazing Assessment
- Gully Assessment
- Channel Characteristics
- Hydrologic Process
- Hydrogeomorphic Functions

Ecological Functions

Wetland Condition

Wetland Functions

Methodology: Functional Assessment Component

Steps 4b: Condition Assessment

Stressor Index

Hydrologic

- *Point source discharge*: Concentrated industrial, commercial, or residential (septic system) pollution discharge.
- *Nonpoint source discharge*: Urban runoff or agricultural drainage (includes cattle manure).
- *Flow diversion*: Includes culverts or arizona crossings. Any structure that impedes hydrology.
- Flow impoundments Any unnatural barrier that is designed to contain water is a system.
- *Flow obstructions* Any natural or unnatural object that obstructs the natural hydrology.

Steps 4b: Condition Assessment

Stressor Index

Land Use

- Resource extraction: Removal of resources from urban, commercial and agricultural industries.
- Agriculture: Presence of grazing or crops.
- *High impact recreation* Any aggressive recreation that immediately affects the wetland i.e. mountain biking, motorcross.
- Low impact recreation Any low impact recreation that affects the wetland i.e. hiking
- *Transportation* Any motorized transportation that immediately affects the wetland.

Steps 4b: Condition Assessment

Stressor Index

Biotic Structure

- Direct discharges from greywater or septic tanks: Discharge of anthropogenic fluid from residential wastes (sewage or wash water).
- Mowing, grazing, excessive herbivory of vegetation in wetland.
- *Removal of woody debris* Evidence of the removal of woody debris in the wetland.
- Evidence of fire Upper layer of soil consists of ash.
- *Human visitation* Wetland is accessible and visited by humans.
- *Invasive or non-native plant species* The presence of invasive or non-native plant species.
- Feral animals Formerly domesticated animals that are in a wild

Steps 4b: Condition Assessment

Stressor Index

Rating:

- *No Stressor* (0),
- Stressor of Low Magnitude (1),
- Stressor of Moderate Magnitude (2),
- Stressor of Large Magnitude (3),
- and Unknown.



Step 4c-1: Functional Assessment - Processes and Functions

Hydrologic and ecological processes and functions performed by different wetland classes.							
	Estuarine	Riverine	Depressional	Seep/Spring	Lacustrine		
Hydrologic Process – Fluvial and/or Freshwater	*	*	•	•	•		
Hydrologic Process – Tidal	•						
Tidal Surge/Flood Attenuation	•	•					
Groundwater Recharge		•	•		•		
Water Quality Improvement	•	•	•	•	•		
Carbon Export	*	•	•	*	•		
Plant Community	*	*	*	*	•		
Wildlife Habitat	*	•	•	*	•		



Step 4c-1: Functional Assessment - Processes and Functions

Freshwater Surface Flows Hydrological **Process** Tidal Surface Flows Tidal Surge/ Flood Attenuation Water Quality Carbon Production and **Ecological** Groundwater Recharge **Function Plant Community** Wildlife - Aquatic Wildlife - Terrestrial Component



Step 4c-2: Functional Assessment Metrics

Tidal Surge/ Flood Attenuation

Entrenchment Ratio (based on Rosgen)

Flood Land Connection (adapted from CRAM)

Distance (adapted from HGM)

Topographic Complexity (adapted from CRAM)

Vertical Biotic Structure (adapted from CRAM)

Soil Substrate Condition (adapted from CRAM)



Step 4c-2: Functional Assessment Metrics

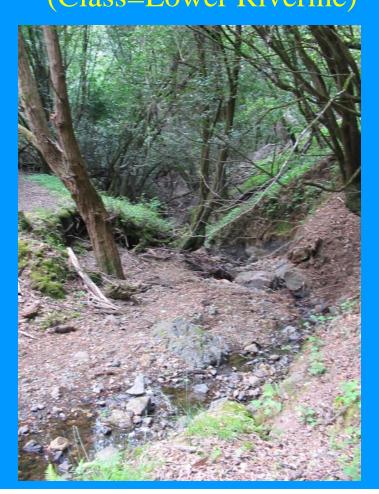
Indicator or Metric	Method Source	Hydrologic Process – Fluvial/FW	Hydrologic Process - Tidal	Tidal Surge/ Flood Atten- uation	Groundwater Recharge	WQ Improvement	Carbon Production/ Export	Plant Community	Wildlife Habitat/Support
Entrenchment Ratio	Rosgen	•		•		•		•	
Sinuousity	Rosgen	•	•						
Flood Land Connection	CRAM	•	•	•		•		*	
Hydroperiod	CRAM	•	•						
Water Source	CRAM	•	•						
Number and Degree of Manmade Constrictions	HGM	•	•						



Entrenchment Ratio (Class=Lower Riverine)

Why important?

• Relates to ability of waters to exceed channel banks during storm events



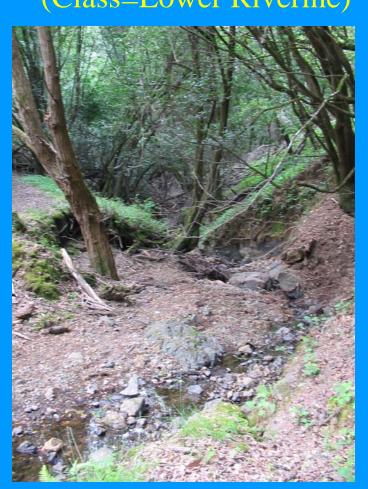
Adapted from Rosgen



Entrenchment Ratio (Class=Lower Riverine)

Where assessed?

• Field





Entrenchment Ratio

(Class=Lower Riverine)

How assessed/calculated?

bank width bank height



Adapted from Rosgen



Entrenchment Ratio

(Class=Lower Riverine)

How rated?

Code	Rating
4	Ratio is greater than (>) 2.2
3	Ratio is between 1.4 and 2.2
2	Ratio is less than (<) 1.4.

Rating is based on surveys of reference creeks with slopes < 0.02 (Rosgen 1996)



Adapted from Rosgen



Flood-Land Connection

(Riverine & Estuarine)

Why important?

• Relates to ability of waters to reach floodplains during annual to moderate storm events





Flood-Land Connection

(Riverine & Estuarine)

Where assessed?

- Office
- Field





Flood-Land Connection

(Riverine & Estuarine)

How assessed/calculated?

Qualitative assessment of access of waters to floodplains during annual to moderate storm events





Flood-Land Connection (Riverine & Estuarine)

How rated?

Code	Rating
4	Rising water in the AA has unrestricted access to adjacent upland, without levees, excessively high banks, walls, or other obstructions to the lateral movement of flood flows
3	Lateral excursion of rising waters in the AA is partially restricted by unnatural features, such as levees or excessively high banks. Restrictions may be intermittent along the AA, or the restrictions may occur only along one bank or shore. Flood flows may exceed the obstructions, but drainage back to the wetland is incomplete due to impoundment.
2	All water stages in the AA are contained within artificial banks, levees, sea walls, or comparable features. There is essentially no hydrologic connection to adjacent uplands



Rating is based on surveys of reference wetlands or judgment as to best functioning condition?



Distance (Riverine & Estuarine)

Why important?

• Increased distance between upland edge and channel represents greater potential reduction in wave energy.





Distance (Riverine & Estuarine)

Where assessed?

• Office





Distance

(Riverine & Estuarine)

How assessed/calculated?

Repeated measurements of distance from channel to upland edge throughout the Assessment Area





Distance (Riverine & Estuarine)

How rated?

Code	Rating
4	Realized floodplain width is 76 – 100% of potential floodplain width.
3	Realized floodplain width is 50 – 75% of potential floodplain width.
2	Realized floodplain width is 25 – 49% of potential floodplain width.
1	Realized floodplain width is 0 – 24% of potential floodplain width.

Rating is based on attainment of potential.

• Different rating system than HGM





Methodology: Data Analysis

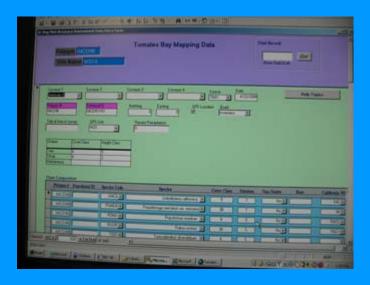
- Analysis of Stressor and Functional Data
 - Stressor indicators summed Stressor Total
 - Respective functions summed within each wetland class to provide Functional Total
 - Weighting of metrics and indicators not included
 - Some metrics not included in preliminary analysis because not rated
- Statistical Analysis
 - Statistical summaries
 - ANOVA on subwatershed comparison
 - Cluster Analysis on Stressor and Functional Totals within each wetland class



Methodology: Data Collection

PDA - Electronic Datasheets

- •Zire 21 Palm Pilot
- •Pen Dragon software compatible with MS Access
- •PORE/GOGA Plant List







Methodology: Cost and Implementation

- Cost
 - 1 GS-5 and 1 GS-7
 - WRD provided ~ \$50,000
- Implementation
 - 13 months
 - Conducted throughout year regardless of season, although strategized work approach



Results/Discussion: Wetlands Mapping

Wetland Type	Tomales Bay	Tomales Bay	Olema Valley	Olema Valley	
	Acres	Percentage	Acres	Percentage	
Riverine	262	25	350	71	
Seep/Spring	57	5.5	35	7	
Depressional	388	37.5	110	22	
Estuarine	528	31.5	U	0	
Total	1035	100	495	100	





Results/Discussion: Subwatershed Comparison

Functional Score Totals

Tomales Bay	Functionality			
	Estuarine	Depressional	Riverine	Seep
Average	81.89	68.54	\$ <mark>5.24</mark>	39.55
Median	84.0	70.75	9 <mark>8 5</mark>	40.0
Standard Dev	9.40	9.91	9.7 <mark>'</mark>	3.89
Minimum	55.0	44.5	59.1	28.0
Maximum	95.0	90.0	110.	45.0
95% CI-Upper	86.9	72.54	98.8	41.32
95% CI-Lower	76.88	64.54	93.65	37.78
Sample Size	16	26	65	21

Olema	Function lli	ty			
	Estuarine		Depressional	Riveri <mark>ne</mark>	Seep
Average	ND		61.74	95.11	39.04
Median	ND		61.5	94.75	39.25
Standard Dev	ND		8.81	8.57	4.07
Minimum	ND		43	61	32.5
Maximum	ND		79	111 <mark>1</mark>	49.0
95% CI-Upper	ND		64.19	97 <mark>.</mark> 25	40.13
95% CI-Lower	ND		59.29	<mark>93.00</mark>	37.95
Sample Size	ND		52	64	56



Results/Discussion: Subwatershed Comparison

Stressor Score Totals

Tomales Bay	Stresson	rs			
	Estuarin	.e	Depressional	Riverine	Seep
Average	11.16		12.89	10.0	11.81
Median	10.5		10.0	8.50	11.0
Standard Dev	7.12		11.30	7.10	9.26
Minimum	2.0		1	0	0
Maximum	29.5		53.0	35.5	34.5
95% CI-Upper	14.95		17.45	11.76	16.03
95% CI-Lower	7.37		8.32	8.24	7.59
Sample Size	16		25	65	21

Olema	Stressors			
	Estuarii e	Depressional	Riverine	Seep
Average	ND	17.71	19.44	16.89
Median	ND	18.5	20.75	18.5
Standard Dev	ND	7.12	6.76	7.75
Minimum	ND	0	0	3.0
Maximum	ND	32.5	36	32.5
95% CI-Upper	ND	19.69	21.13	18.97
95% CI-Lower	ND	12.73	17.75	14.82
Sample Size	ND	52	64	50



Wetlands with the Highest Stressor Scores

List	of functional uni	ts with highest stre	essor scores	in Tomales Bay watershed.
No.	Wetland	Identification	Stressor	Description
	Type	Name	Total	
1.	Depressional	Giacomini	53.0	East Pasture of Giacomini Ranch and
				lower portion of Tomasini Creek
				subwatershed that is grazed by dairy cattle.
2.	Seep	Ledum	39.0	Above Ledum Swamp
3.	Riverine	WS 11 & 12	36.0	West side of Olema Valley near Five
				Brooks that is at least partially grazed by
				horses.
4.	Depressional	Giacomini	36.0	West Pasture of Giacomini Ranch and
				lower portion of Fish Hatchery Creek
				subwatershed that is grazed by dairy cattle.
5.	Riverine	Giacomini	35.50	Diked portion of Lagunitas Creek near
				Waldo Giacomini Ranch.
6.	Seep	WS 58	34.50	Headwater source for riverine wetland near
				L Ranch that is grazed by dairy cattle.
7.	Depressional	Bear Valley	32.50	Pasture grazed by beef cattle near
				Seashoe's Bear Valley headquarters
8.	Seep	WS 02	32.50	Southeastern portion of Olema Valley
9.	Seep	WS 05	30.50	Southeastern portion of Olema Valley
10.	Depressional	WS 71	30.00	Drainage to Tomales Beach near Kehoe
				Ranch that is grazed by dairy cattle.
11.	Riverine	WS 30	30.00	Small drainage to Olema Marsh on west
				side of Inverness Ridge



Biotic Stressors in Tomales Bay





Cows

Tule Elk

Herbivory and Non-Point Source Discharge



Mule Deer



Italian Thistle



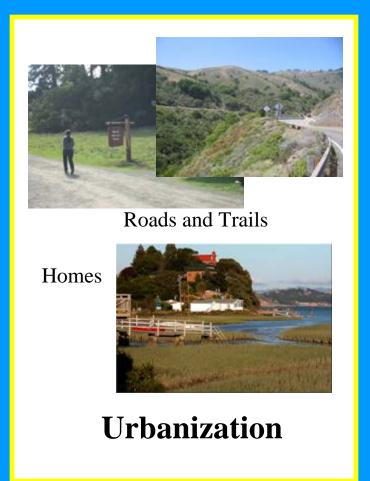
Velvet Grass

Non-native Vegetation



Abiotic Stressors in Tomales Bay







How does Tomales Bay compare?



California Wetlands



Excellent

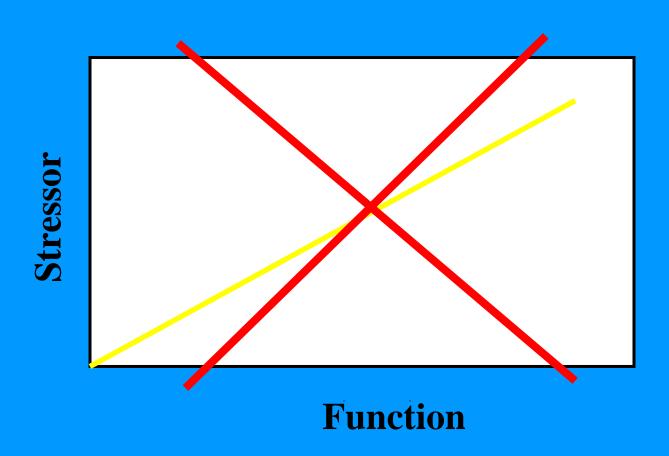




Poor



Relationship between Stressors and Function

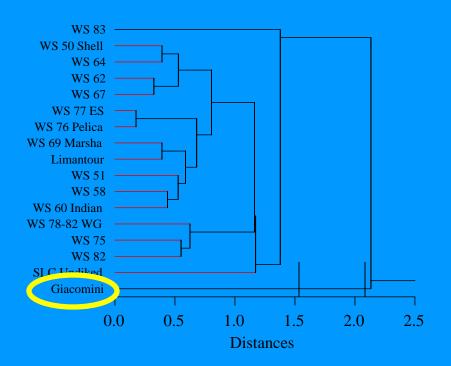




Estuarine Wetlands

Functional Totals

Cluster Tree







Preliminary Recommendations for Restoration and Source Reduction

- Tier 1: Sites with low to moderate functional scores and high stressor scores
 - Sites where relationship between functional and stressors appear strongest
 - Better sense of what relevant stressors in these sites might be
- Tier 2: Sites with moderate functional scores and stressor scores
- Tier 3: Areas that appeared anomalous in terms of scoring
 - Use to modify assessment methodology if needed



Tier 1: High Priority Areas

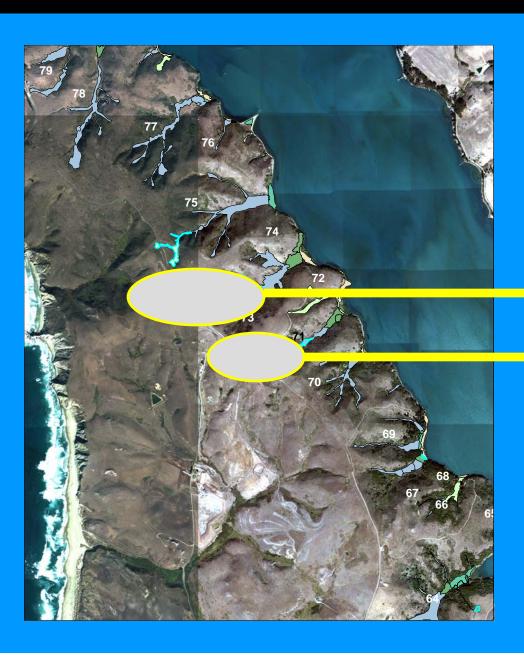
er I: High priority sites or Functiona orts.	l Units for furthe	r evaluation a	nd potential	restoration
Functional Unit/Site	Ownership	Wetland Class	Stressor Score	Functional Score
Waldo Giacomini Ranch East Pasture and Tomasini Creek subwatershed	NPS Under ROU	Depressio nal	53.0	46.0 (43.0-90.0)
Waldo Giacomini Ranch Diked portion of Lagunitas Creek near Waldo Giacomini Ranch	State Lands Commission	Riverine	35.5	59.1 (59.1-111)
Watershed 58 Headwater source for drainage to Indian Beach near L Ranch	NPS	Seep	34.5	28.0 (28.0-49.0)
Waldo Giacomini Ranch Diked estuarine portions in northern portion of ranch	NPS Portion under ROU	Estuarine	29.5	55.0 (55.0-95.0)
Watershed 71 Upper portion of drainage to Tomales Beach near Kehoe Ranch	NPS	Riverine	30.0	71.0 (59.1-111)
Watershed 29 Bear Valley near Visitor Center	NPS	Riverine	27.0	61.0 (59.1-111)



Tier 2: Moderate Priority Areas

Tier II: Medium priority sites or Functional Units for further evaluation and potential restoration efforts.				
Functional Unit/Site	Ownership	Wetland Class	Stressor Score	Functiona Score
Vedanta Unit Depressional area at Vedanta Ranch	private	Depressio nal	28.0	43.0 (43.0-90.0)
Fault Sag Pond Pond along fault in Olema Valley	NPS?	Depressio nal	27.0	45.0 (43.0-90.0)
Watershed 24 Northeastern portion of Olema Valley	?????	Riverine	25.5	76.5 (59.1-111)
Watershed 12 Wetland near Five Brooks in Olema Valley	NPS	Depressio nal	25.5	48.0 (43.0-90.0)
Watershed 73 Drainage north of Tomales Beach near Kehoe Ranch	NPS	Riverine	24.0	76.0 (59.1-111)
Watershed 25 Wetland in northeastern portion of Olema Valley	????	Depressio nal	22.0	44.0 (43.0-90.0
Watershed 25 Upper portion of watershed in northeastern portion of Olema Valley	NPS	Seep	21.50	32.50 (28.0-49.0
Watershed 56 Drainage to Heart's Desire State Park	California State Parks	Riverine	20.0	75.5 (59.1-111)
Watershed 29 Bear Valley near Visitor Center	NPS	Seep	19.50	32.50 (28.0-49.0
Watershed 24 Wetland in the northeastern portion of Olema Valley	????	Depressio nal	18.0	45.0 (43.0-90.0





Tier 1

— Tier 2



Conclusions:



Valuable Tool:

Condition and Functional Assessment appears promising as a tool to increase value of mapping efforts in conserving, protecting, managing, and ultimately restoring wetlands.



Conclusions:

- Still in its Infancy: Format, analysis, and use of this information still in its infancy, both nationally and at PORE.
 - Add new indicators if necessary
 - Refine existing indicators
 - Refine rating scales
 - Possibly add weighting system
 - Reconsider value and/or structure of Stressor Indices
 - Track progress of CRAM team in refining preliminary assessment versions



Conclusions:

- Next Steps: Next steps for PORE:
 - Refine preliminary analysis of Tomales Bay
 - Potential use in evaluating pre- and post-restoration conditions and functionality at PORE restoration sites.
 - Use to guide development of desired future conditions at PORE
 - Potential use at other PWR parks?

Horseshoe Pond Restoration Project, PORE



Acknowledgments:

- Chelsea Donovan, Amelia Ryan, and Leslie Allen
- Water Resources Division for support

